

New Innkeepers Welcome Community, Visitors To Highland Lake Inn

By Anne Hewitt
Beacon staff

Pecco and Gail Beaufaÿs viewed more than 30 properties in four states to find what they were looking for. What they consider to be the "cream of the crop" in the bed and breakfast industry is right here in Andover, on the shores of Highland Lake.

The Highland Lake Inn, built in 1767, has 10 unique guest rooms, each with a full private bathroom. Each room is named to reflect local features or personalities such as Highland, Putney, Marston, and Danbury. Its picturesque setting in quaint East Andover Village and its location surrounded by all-season recreation, entertainment, and activities are some of the Inn's special attractions.

The Beaufaÿs acquired the turnkey business in May 2006. The historic building needed no major repairs, as it had undergone extensive renovations in the early 1990s including plumbing, wiring, and basement reconstruction.

Gail and Pecco are adding personal decorative touches such as their unique collection of European and American artwork, freshly painted walls, pristine bed and bath linens, and varied menu selections.

Pecco brings to the Highland Lake Inn decades of experience in the international luxury hotel industry. Gail joins him in this endeavor, though she will maintain her long-established career as a French teacher in independent schools, currently at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York, to which she will commute until she gains a foothold somewhere in the area.

Together, Pecco and Gail have lived and traveled extensively in Europe, Canada, and across the United States.

Pecco and Gail have two sons. Pecco, Jr., 21, majors in business at Clemson University in South Carolina. Teddy, 19, attends Occidental College in California and plans to pursue a career in the film/advertising industry.



Pecco and Gail Beaufaÿs, the new innkeepers at the Highland Lake Inn. Photo: Bob Bussey

The *Beacon* asked the Beaufaÿs to discuss their newest enterprise.

Beacon: Why a bed and breakfast?

Beaufaÿs: The time had come that our sons had left the nest for college and we were seeking a place in an all-season recreational destination – for skiing, boating, and swimming – that would be luring, comfortable, and big enough for our sons and their friends to return for frequent stays. We have always enjoyed entertaining family, friends, and business relations, and this business just seems to be right for us.

Beacon: What attracted you to Andover?

Beaufaÿs: The community, the environment. We're family-oriented, and this area seems to share similar values. We want the Inn to complement the quality of life reflected in this village. From our first visit to the Highland Lake Inn we felt very comfortable with the seller, and our new bank, Franklin Savings Bank, was very supportive in facilitating the realization of our project. Here there is a wide variety of recreational activities, and we are enthusiastic about the prospects for tourism development projects like the nearby Northern Rail Trail.

Beacon: What is your philosophy about running the Highland Lake Inn?

Beaufaÿs: Comfort, service, cleanliness; providing the best quality available. We have replaced all the linens with Italian made Mascioni. This unique company still manufactures and assembles all its linens in Italy. We have also replaced all pillows and comforters, and we have invested in new appliances to care for these linens – washer, dryer, and ironing machine. All linens are ironed on the premises!

Beacon: Do you have future plans?

Beaufaÿs: We've already upgraded the menu to include only fresh and homemade selections. We serve exclusively Harney & Sons tea, the first American tea sold to the Queen of England. We would like to renovate the barn into a function facility and/or for our living quarters.

Pecco also owns and operates a Web site for Lufthansa mileage redemption, WorldShopGourmet.com. This New York-based company will be transferred to East Andover.

The Beaufaÿs welcome visitors to the Highland Lake Inn and are excited about joining the vibrant East Andover community. Stop by the Inn or visit its Web site at HighlandLakeInn.com for a tour of the unique guest rooms.

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop

Don't miss our August **HALF-PRICE CLOTHING SALE**

We have quite a few **larger women's garments** in stock. Sorry, **no new consignments** can be taken until September.

We are located behind the Andover Town Hall.

Our Hours

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ENJOY THE LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER!

**Stop in and meet your new neighbors,
Gail and Pecco Beaufaÿs
and their sons Pecco and Teddy,
the new innkeepers at the Highland Lake Inn
on Maple Street.**

**The Beaufaÿs are happy to accommodate
your friends and family
for festive occasions and reunions
at the Highland Lake Inn,
a neighborhood landmark since 1767.**

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